

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 5 are presently active in this case. Claims 3 and 5 are amended and Claims 1-2, 4, 6-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4, 6-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hulfachor et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0026054, herein "Hulfachor"). Claims 4, 9, 10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulfachor in view of Ker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,465,848). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for not showing features of Claims 14 and 15. Claims 3 and 5 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims.

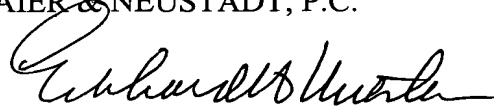
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 3 and 5 include allowable subject matter. In light of this indication Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to be in independent form, and the remaining Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-16 have been canceled. Further, the language of Claim 5 has been clarified consistent with the support found, for example in the specification at page 14, lines 5-10.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, the grounds for rejection and objection stated in the outstanding Office Action are moot, and Claims 3 and 5 are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Application No. 10/800,999
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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